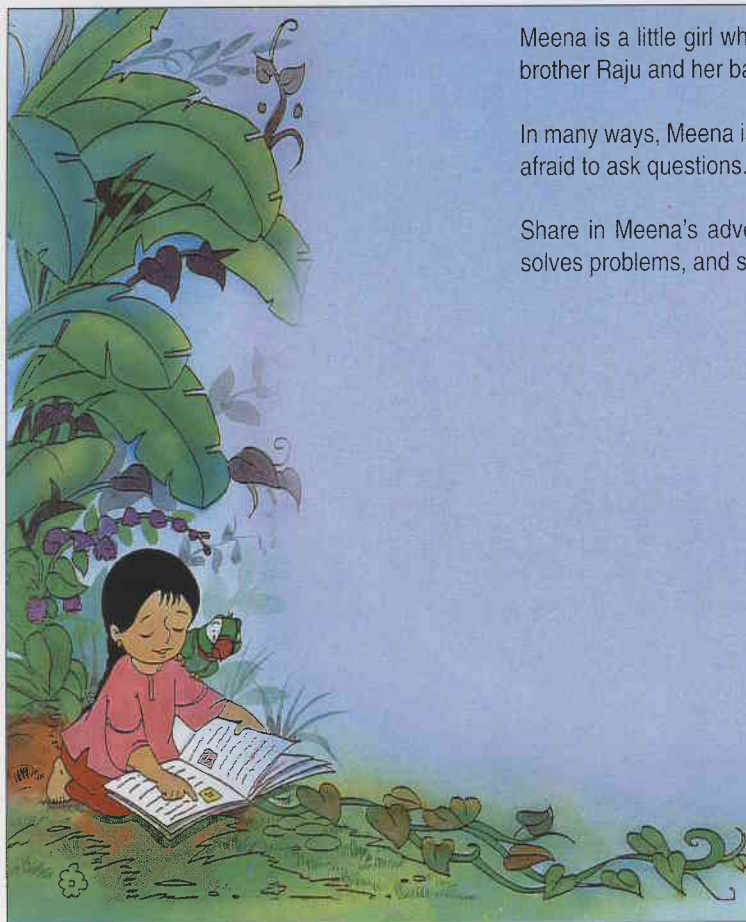


# It Could Happen to Anyone



For every child  
Health, Education, Equality, Protection  
ADVANCE HUMANITY

unicef 



Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

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It was a hot summer's day. Meena was reading a book while her brother Raju, was playing with his toy car. Grandma was half-asleep.



Just then Mother came out on the verandah. She was on her way to the shop and wanted Meena to go with her.





Baby Rani was fast asleep, so Mother placed her next to Grandma and they set off. Meena's pet parrot Mithu also followed them.



The afternoon was so hot that soon Grandma was fast asleep too.



On the way to the shop, Raju and Mithu raced away. Mother was worried because the main road was just ahead.



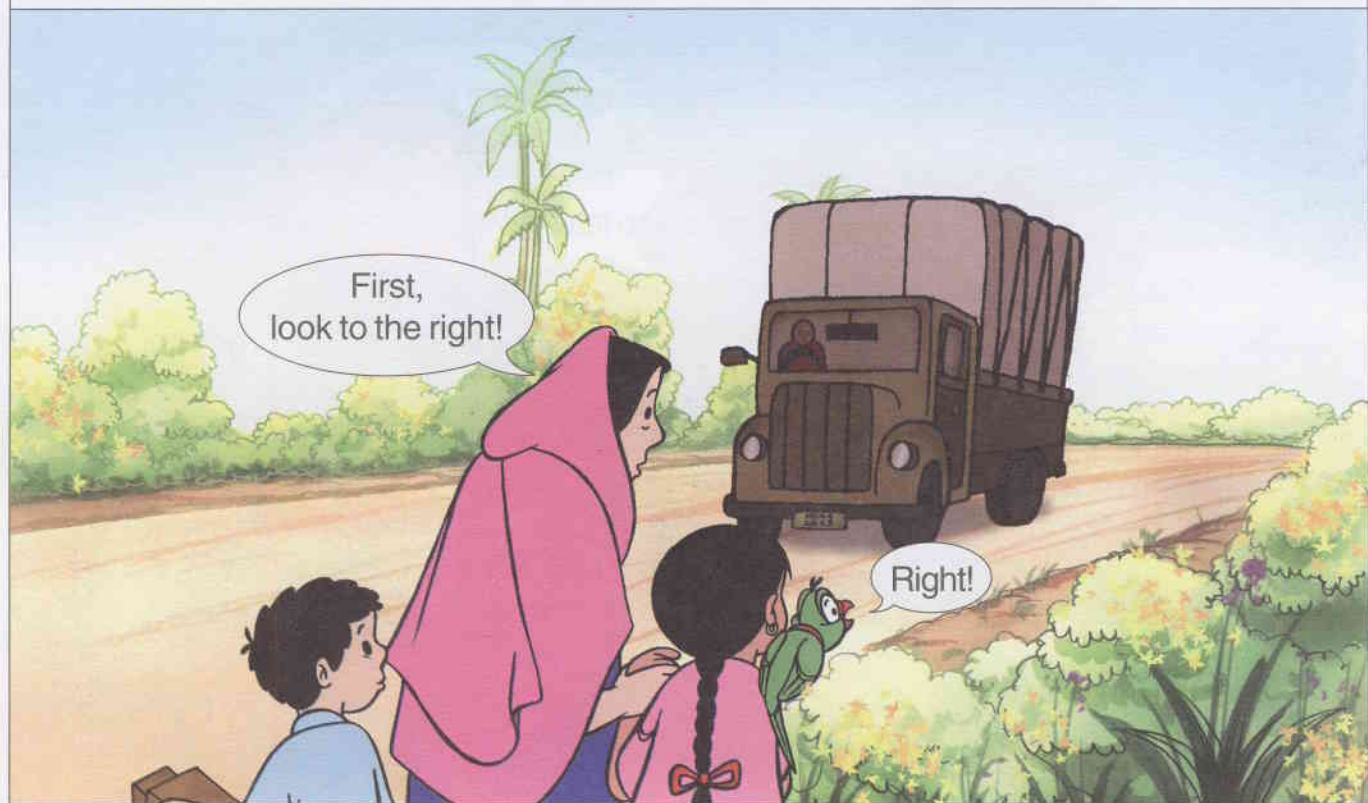


Mother and Meena caught up with Raju just in time. The road was full of trucks and buses.





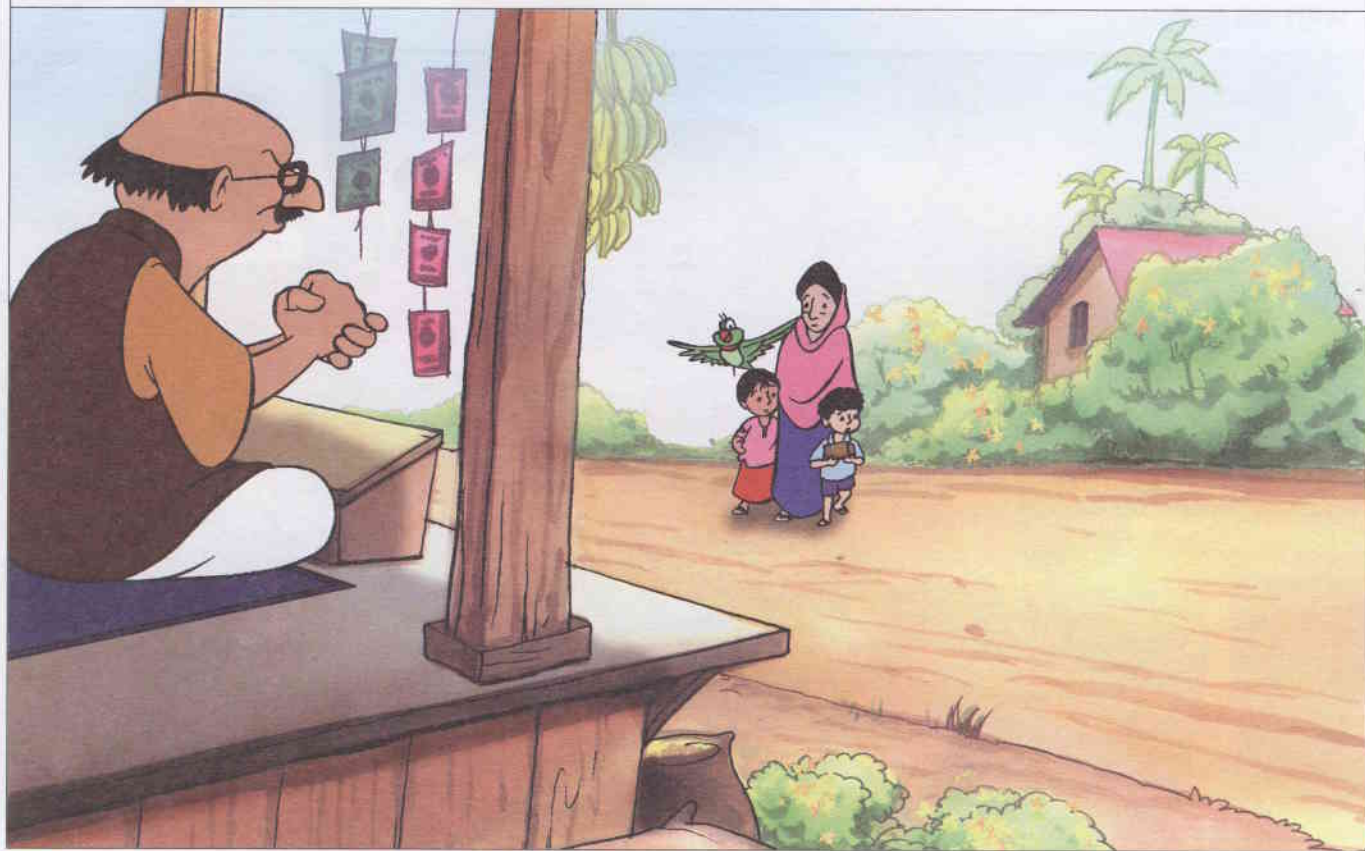
Mother told the children that it is very important to stop at a busy road and look both ways carefully before crossing.



Only when there is no traffic coming should the road be crossed.

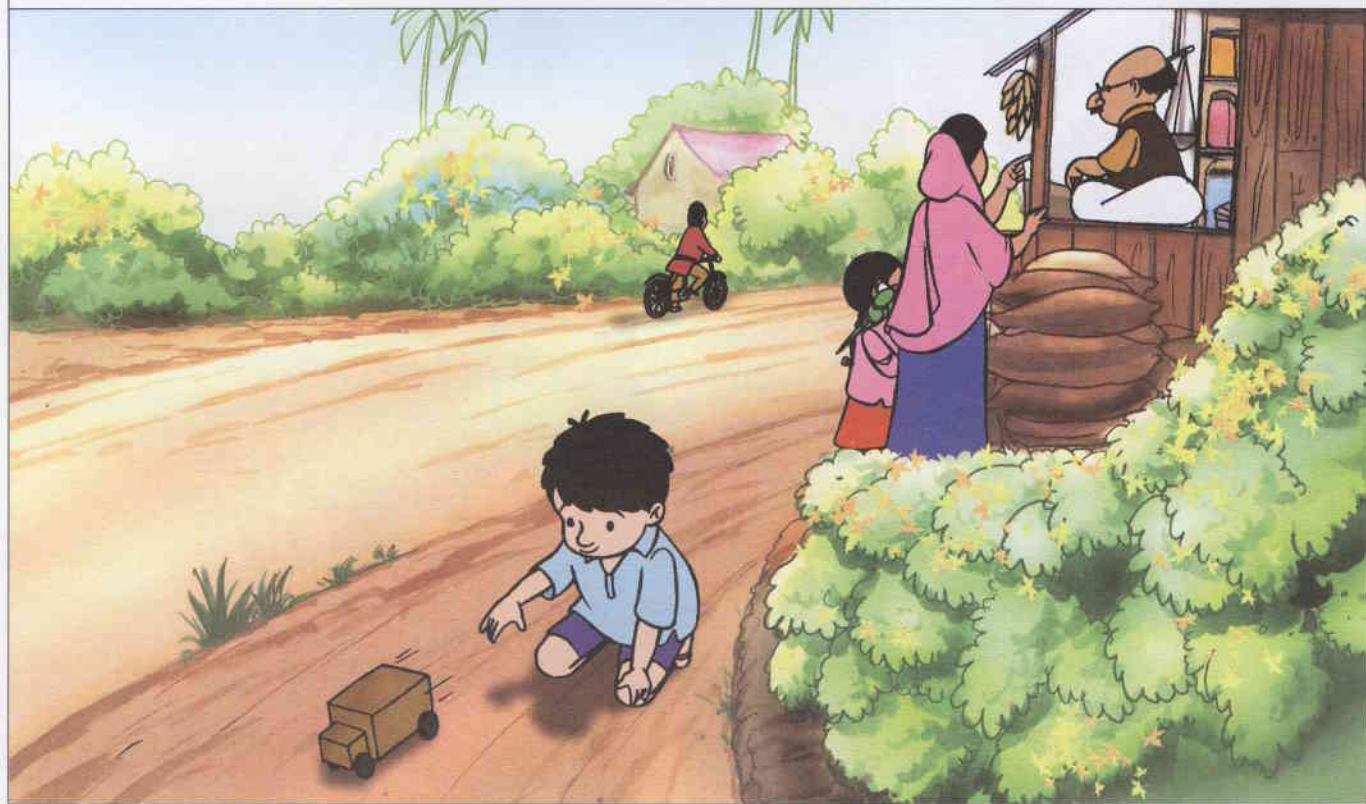


They finally arrived at the shop.





There were so many things to buy. Mother and Meena didn't notice that Raju was off again with his car!



He was so busy playing that he soon forgot what his Mother had said about the dangers of a busy road. Silly Raju!



He did not look to the right or to the left before stepping onto the road, and he did not see the big bus coming straight at him.





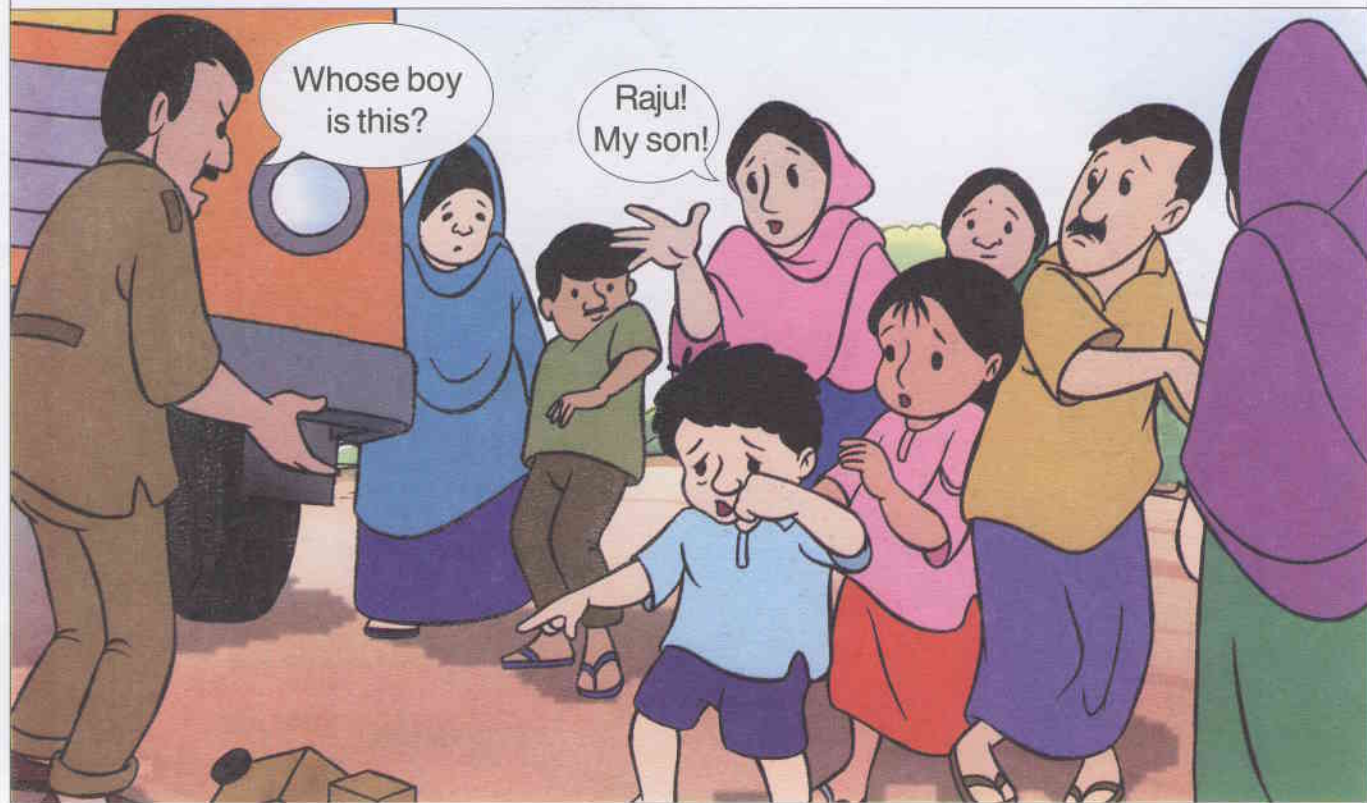
Mother and Meena heard the terrible screech of brakes. Only then did they realize that Raju was not with them.



Terrified, they ran towards the crowd already gathering in the front of the bus.

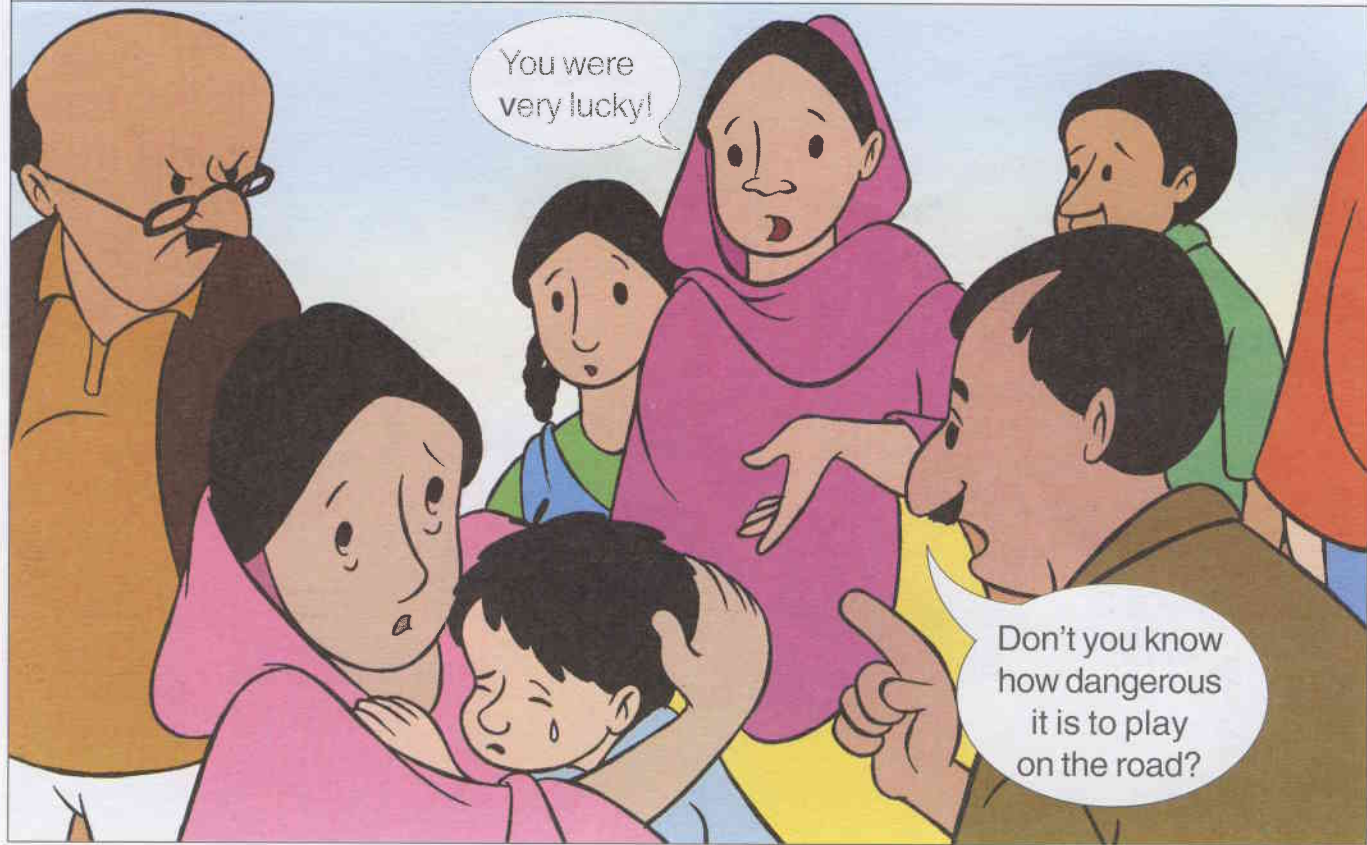


What a relief it was to see that Raju was safe! The bus driver had managed to brake just in time.





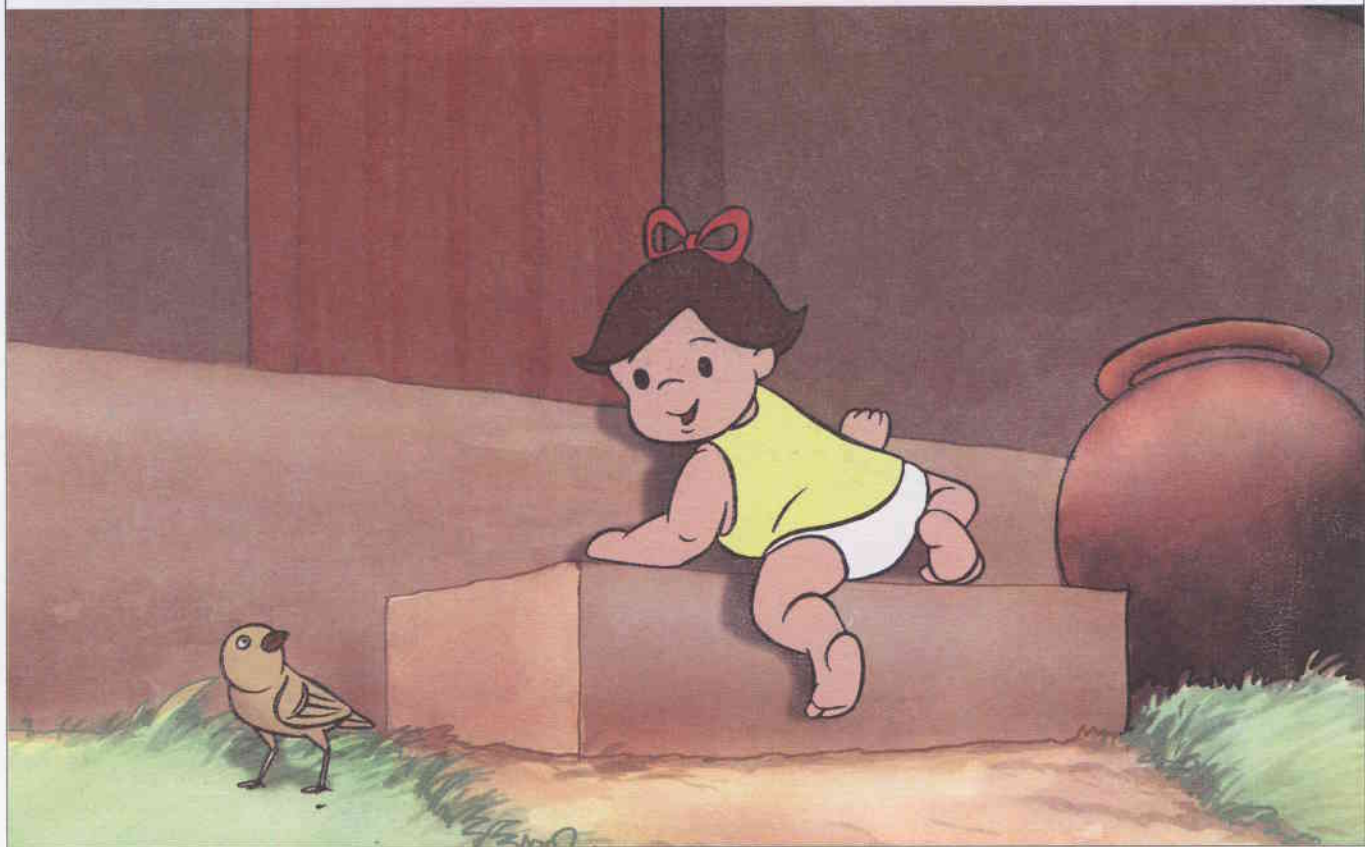
Mother was so sorry that she had not kept an eye on Raju. He could have been killed!



While all this excitement was going on, back at home Baby Rani had woken up and was on an adventure of her own.



Grandma was still asleep and did not see Rani climb down the steps into the yard.





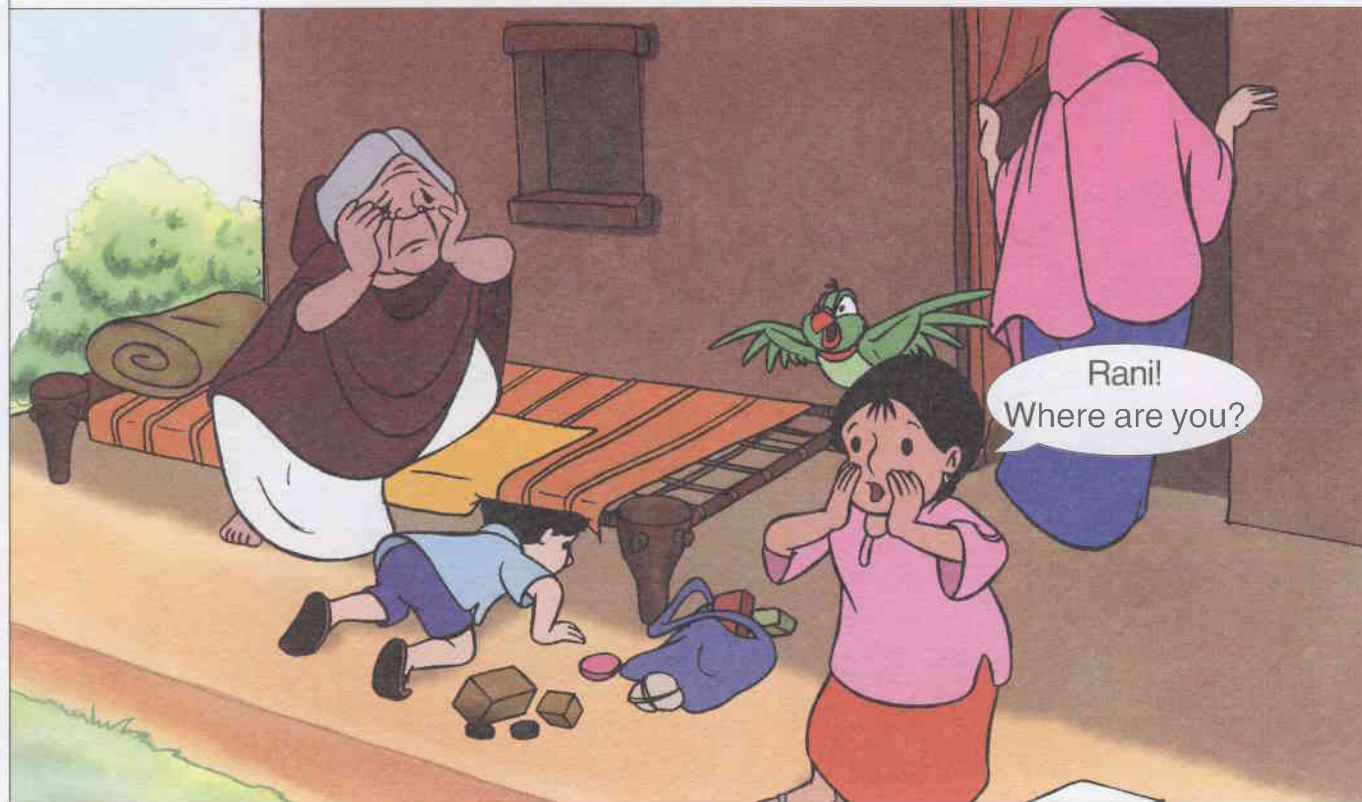
Rani wandered behind the house and into the tall grasses. There were so many wonderful things to see. There were insects and birds, flowers and the sparkling water of the pond!



When Mother, Meena and Raju returned home some time later, Rani was nowhere to be seen.



They searched the house and all over the yard. Where could little Rani have gone? Granny was in tears.





When the search continued into the overgrown area behind the house, Mother got really worried. Surely Rani could not have fallen into the pond?



Then Raju found Rani's ribbon caught on a branch just besides the pond. Mother took it with trembling fingers.



But Meena shouted with joy! Here was Rani! She had wandered past the pond and into the pumpkin patch!





What a scary day it had been! Both Raju and Rani could have been seriously hurt. That night Father and Mother discussed things they could do to keep the children safe.

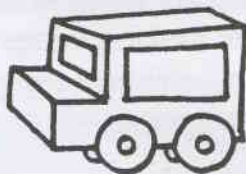
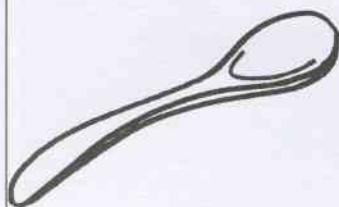


It's not only children who have to learn! Curious animals and birds can get into a lot of trouble too!



The next day itself, Father started building the fence and Mother tied bells around Rani's waist. They did not want to waste any time making things safe because they had realized that there are so many ways in which small children can get hurt.

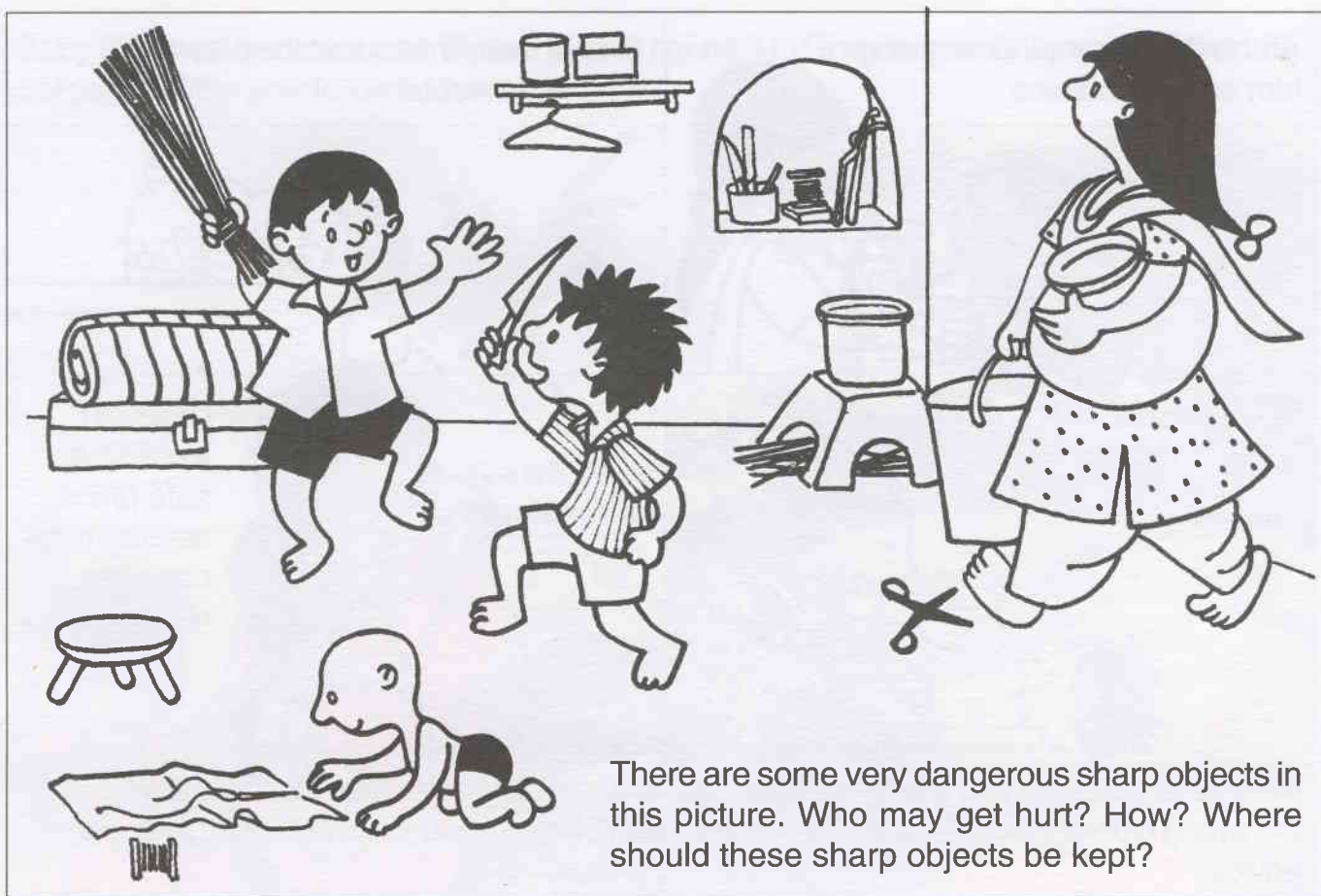




Find three things on this page that can burn you. Put an X mark on them.

Keep away from fire and things that can burn you.





There are some very dangerous sharp objects in this picture. Who may get hurt? How? Where should these sharp objects be kept?

Abu is ill so his mother is giving him some medicine



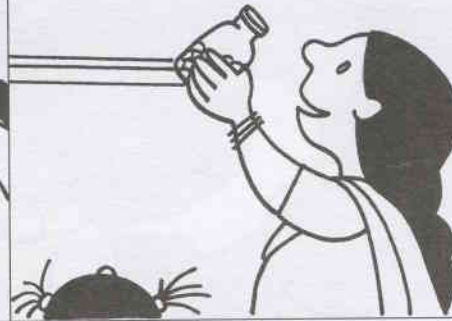
Oh no! Baby thinks that the pills look like sweets!



No, Baby, no! This is not for you.  
It will make you ill!



I will put it  
away in a  
safe place  
where you  
cannot  
reach it.

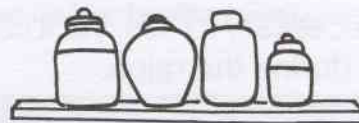


Medicines can help you get better when you are sick. They can also harm you if you take the wrong type of medicine or the wrong amount. Always take medicine only on the doctor's advice.



Sonu's kite is stuck high up in the tree. He cannot reach it.

What will happen next?



Sheila knows that her mother has kept a bottle of sweets on the top shelf and she is trying to reach it.

What will happen next?

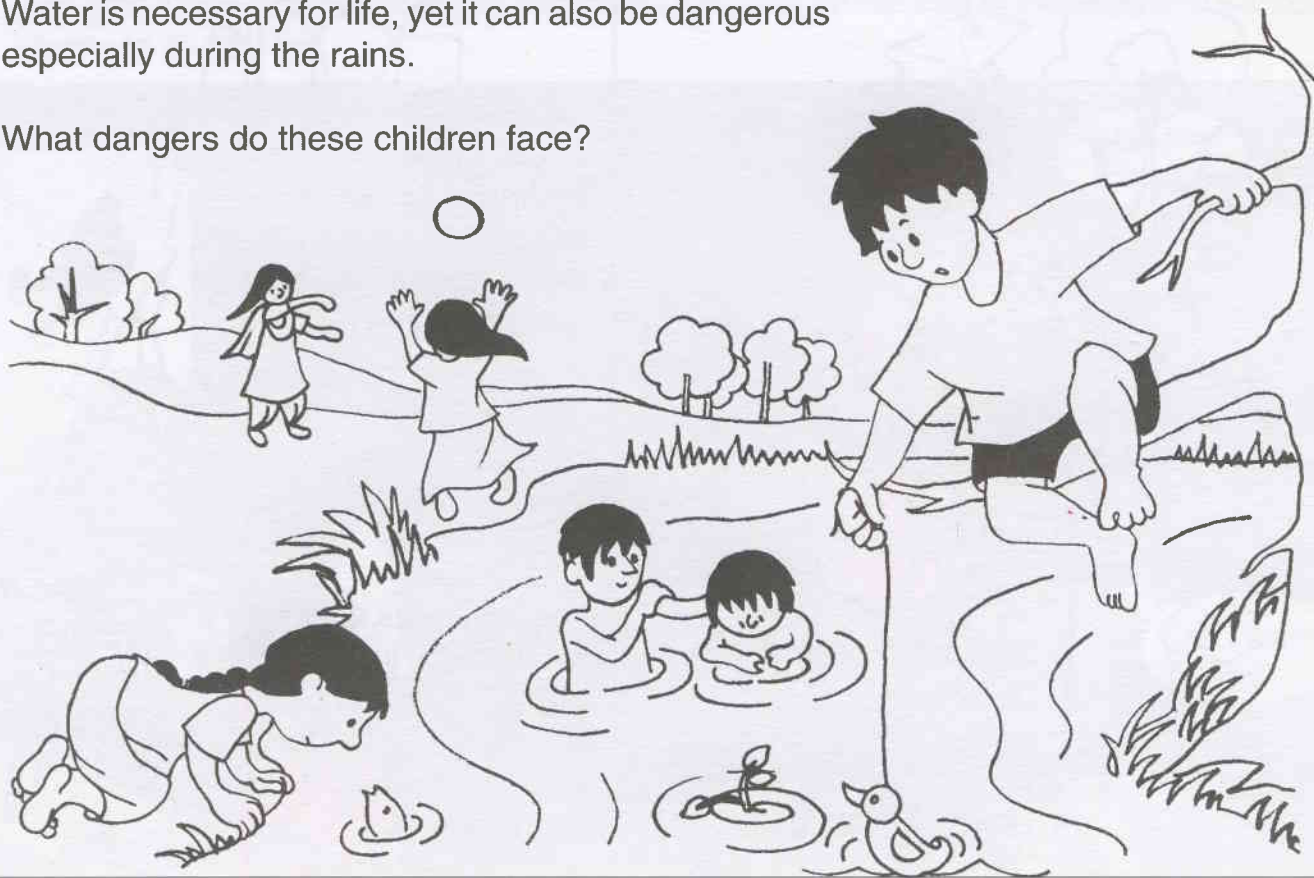
You can break an arm or a leg or worse in a fall from a high place. Never climb up on high stools, ladders, windows or roofs. It can be very dangerous.





Water is necessary for life, yet it can also be dangerous especially during the rains.

What dangers do these children face?



Colour this page:



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1. Count Your Chickens
2. Dividing the Mango
3. Will Meena Leave School?
4. Who's Afraid of the Bully?
5. Saving a Life
6. Meena's Three Wishes
7. Say No to Dowry
8. Too Young to Marry
9. Take Care of Girls
10. I Love School
11. It's Got to Be a Boy!
12. Meena in the City
13. A Girl's Story
14. Learning to Love
15. Strangers in the Village
16. Reaching Out
17. Meena And Her Friend
18. It Could Happen to Anyone
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